

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00713 181605Z

72

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 SPC-01 NEA-06 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 EUR-10 DRC-01

/061 W

----- 015333

R 181238Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7317

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEYR

AMCONSUL ASMARA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0713

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IO ET

SUBJ: AIR SUPPORT FOR INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP OPERATIONS

REF: ADDIS 0481

1. SUMMARY: EMPEROR'S REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL ON ABOVE SUBJECT HAS BEEN A SHORTER VERSION OF FONMIN'S STATEMENTS EARLIER THIS WEEK. ALTHOUGH EMPEROR WAS WARM AND CORDIAL AND PROMISED TO CONSIDER MATTER FURTHER, HE SAID PROPOSAL INVOLVED UNACCEPTABLE RISKS FOR ETHIOPIA UNLESS US CAN CONTRIBUTE MORE TO ITS SECURITY.

2. ON MORNING JANUARY 18 I PRESENTED REFTEL PROPOSAL TO H.I. M., WHO PROBABLY HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY BRIEFED ON SUBJECT BY FONMIN MINASSIE. EMPEROR INQUIRED FIRST WHETHER PATROLLING OPERATIONS IN QUESTION WERE INTENDED FOR USUSE OR FOR MUTUAL USE OF NATIONS IN AREA. I RESPONDED THAT INFORMATION WE HAD RECEIVED INDICATED ONLY THAT OPERATIONS WOULD BE IN SUPPORT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00713 181605Z

OF OUR INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP.

3. THE EMPEROR SAID HE WAS SURE I UNDERSTOOD FRIENDSHIP WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT FEELS FOR US AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM WHICH US IS FACING IN INDIAN OCEAN. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED WITH ME THE COMMON PROBLEM WHICH IEG AND USG FACE IN THIS AREA, NAMELY THAT OF "AVOIDING THE HEGEMONY OF A PARTICULAR POWER". HIS MAJESTY THEN SAID THAT EXISTENCE OF PROPOSED FACILITY WITH COOPERATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD "INCREASE IMMEASURABLY" ETHIOPIA'S INSECURITY. HE OBSERVED THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED ETHIOPIA'S PRESENT SECURITY PROBLEM WITH US OFFICIALS IN PAST AND THAT PROPOSED ACTION WOULD LEAVE ETHIOPIA "WIDE OPEN" FROM SECURITY STANDPOINT.

4. EMPEROR SAID HE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER OUR PROPOSAL BUT THAT CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO OTHER ASPECT OF SUBJECT, NAMELY HOW TO "COMPENSATE" ETHIOPIA FOR INCREASED INSECURITY WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL. HE ASKED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT, DESPITE HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE, HE FELT IT ESSENTIAL THAT INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY BE "SOMEWHAT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT".

5. I INDICATED THAT I UNDERSTOOD HIS MAJESTY'S VIEWS AND WOULD PROMPTLY TRANSMIT THEM TO WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT: ETHIOPIA'S RECENT BREAK OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ITS DECISION GIVE IMPRESSION TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT IT HAD ENCOURAGED USG TO PHASE-DOWN KAGNEW REFLECTED PRIMARILY A BASIC POLICY DECISION THAT IEG MUST GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PLACATE THE ARAB STATES AND THE MORE RADICAL AFRICAN STATES SO THAT THEY WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO PROVIDE PRESENT OR FUTURE SUPPORT TO POSSIBLE AGGRESSIVE ACTION BY SOMALIA OR TO ACTIVITIES OF ELF INSURGENTS. IT IS THEREFORE UNDERSTANDABLE THAT EMPEROR, DESPITE HIS GREAT INTEREST IN STRONG TIES WITH US, DOES NOT WISH TAKE A STEP WHICH WOULD SHARPLY CONFLICT WITH THIS POLICY AND WHICH WOULD FURTHER BURDEN HIS ALREADY DIFFICULT RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. ANOTHER FACTOR PROBABLY INFLUENCING HIM IS THAT MANY HIGH-LEVEL ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT RECENT MIDDLE EAST WAR AND RELATED ENERGY CRISIS MUST HAVE ENHANCED STRATEGIC VALUE OF ETHIOPIA IN EYES OF US POLICY-MAKERS. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, THEY HOPE, COULD LEAD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ADDIS 00713 181605Z

USG TO RECONSIDER WHETHER IEG CAN BE PROVIDED WITH MORE MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

7. IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY TO ME THAT WE WILL HEAR MUCH MORE FROM IEG REGARDING OUR PROPOSAL UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED OFFER MORE MILITARY ASSISTANCE THAN WE HAVE THUS FAR. ADAIR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, COMMITTEES, NATIONAL SECURITY GUARANTEES, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS00713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740133/aaaabeue.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: ADDIS 0481
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR SUPPORT FOR INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP OPERATIONS
TAGS: MARR, PINS, IO, ET, XO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005